

## Letter from R. E. Smith to Alexander Graham Bell, April 13, 1891

R. E. Smith, Attorney at Law. Acknowledged & Answered by Mr. & Mrs Apr. 19. Sherman, Texas, April 13th 1891 Prof. Alexander Graham Bell, Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir: Having noticed that you made a gift of \$25000. in the interest of the deaf, is my sole reason for asking this favor of you. I have a little son, 3 years of age, pronounced incurably deaf. He is not only quite a jovial, healthful & handsome little fellow, but very bright & apt to learn, & I write to you to advise me about his education. He goes about laughing loud & melodiously, like other children, has a cea clear melodious voice, tries to talk, & pronounces a great many words accurately & I believe, with proper instruction, that he would learn to talk well. My means are limited, but I can afford to do most any thing for him, necessary to his advancement. I am of opinion that you have given this subject of educating the deaf deep study & if you will advise me fully I shall be under lasting obligations to you. We have 5 little girls, the eldest only 12 years of age; and he & they are quite devoted to each other, so I would not want him separated from them, nor from us, except as the last resort. I have been thinking it ad v isable to employ a teacher, to instruct him in the oral method, at home. If you think this advisable, can't you assist me in securing a teacher? I would prefer a young man, but will be content with the best that can be done. And will you give me the names of the schools known to you that teach the deaf orally. Any information, or suggestions you can make to me will be greatly appreciated by

Yours truly, R. E. Smith